

Message Text

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ACTION ST-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 /012 W
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R 130909Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 620

UNCLAS MUSCAT 748

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ATRN, MU

SUBJECT: EMBASSY MOTOR POOL

REF: OCTOBER 18 LTR TO AMB FROM BERNSTEIN (A/OPR/ST)

1. APPRECIATE RECEIPT OF REFERENCED LETTER.

2. STATUS OF EMBASSY MOTOR POOL IS AS FOLLOWS: COM CHRYSLER IS ONLY VEHICLE PRESENTLY IN OPERATION. CHEVROLET SEDAN DEADLINED BECAUSE OF UNAVAILABILITY OF PARTS FOR AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION (N.B. THIS IS POTENTIAL PROBLEM FOR ANY AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION VEHICLE, COMPOUNDED BY LACK OF LOCAL MECHANICS COMPETENT TO MAKE NECESSARY REPAIRS). PRESENT IHC CARRYALL DEADLINED DUE TO PROBLEMS WITH CARBURETOR. HENCE, EMBASSY HAS NO CAPACITY FOR MOVING BEYOND VERY LIMITED SYSTEM OF IMPROVED ROADS.

3. SITUATION WILL IMPROVE WITH ARRIVAL OF PLYMOUTH SATELLITE (TO REPLACE CHEVROLET) AND SUBURBAN CARRYALL (TO REPLACE IHC). UNRESOLVED IS QUESTION OF FOURTH AUTHORIZED VEHICLE.

4. IN ADDITION TO QUESTIONS OF PARTS AND SERVICE AVAILABILITY, EMBASSY MUST CONSIDER PROBLEMS SUCH AS UNUSUALLY NARROW ACCESS TO OUR BUILDING. IN FACT, SUBURBAN CARRYALL WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REACH EMBASSY AND WILL HAVE TO BE PARKED ABOUT TWO BLOCKS AWAY. USE OF THIS VEHICLE IS DEFINITELY LIMITED BECAUSE OF ITS SIZE, AND ALTHOUGH WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR IT, WE
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DEFINITELY NEED A SMALLER 4WD AS FOURTH VEHICLE.

JEEP WAGONEER WOULD BE IDEAL, SINCE WHILE ITS SIZE DOES NOT PRECLUDE REACHING EMBASSY, IT SUITS OUR PURPOSE REGARDING NUMBER OF PASSENGERS PLUS GEAR FOR EXTENDED OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIPS (WHEREAS SMALLER CATEGORY B CHEVROLET BLAZER AND IHC SCOUT WOULD NOT DO SO).

5. IN THIS CONNECTION, DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN RE BOYCOTT CAN BE ALLAYED. JEEP PRODUCTS (SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING WAGONEER) ARE ON LOCAL MARKET, AND PARTS/SERVICE AVAILABLE (WHICH IS NOT CASE WITH SUBURBAN). BASED ON STUDY OF BROCHURES SENT UNDER COVER OF REFERENCED LETTER, WE ARE CONVINCED THAT WAGONEER IS VEHICLE WHICH BEST MEETS OUR NEEDS.

6. IN LIGHT OF INFO ABOVE, EMBASSY HOPES DEPT WILL ACCEDE TO OUR REQUEST FOR JEEP WAGONEER. ADVISE.
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